This course will focus on a variety of problems that arise before, during, and after emergencies and disasters. Each week we will consider a topic that has been particularly challenging and examine it closely with respect to existing and evolving theory and with respect to transferring theory into application. The course will require considerable reading, including articles assigned in this syllabus and from other sources, as well as substantial contemplation of the principles and concepts presented in the readings and discussed in class. The objective is to develop sufficient familiarity with these subjects to be able to address them with authority in professional settings. As a consequence, the course will emphasize analysis and critical consideration of emergency management challenges and the related literature.

Grades

Grades will be based on written assignments and active participation in class discussions according to the following breakdown:

Participation: 15%
Assignment 1: 15%
Assignment 2: 20%
Assignment 3: 50%

Students should be prepared for each class, having read and thoroughly contemplated the readings for the week. Each student should be prepared to amplify the readings with reference to ongoing events or related items of concern, drawn either from media sources or the student’s professional experience. Active participation and discussion are essential in this course and are weighted accordingly at 15% of the course grade.

An important part of your participation grade will be your role in facilitating discussion. Each week a different student will facilitate discussion on that week’s topic (which may extend to a second week). It will be necessary to examine the literature on that topic beyond those texts assigned. Some suggested themes to guide you are: divergences between theory and application; shifts in emphasis over time or between places; implications for public policy; and needs for further research.
Assignments and Readings

Students should establish and check frequently a UD email account. Students should check the Sakai website frequently.

Two books are required, available at the bookstore:


Other readings will be downloaded from library and internet sources.

**Assignment 1**
Select a disaster journal for intensive study and analysis. For the last three years (2013, 2014, 2015), identify the emergency, disaster, or homeland security subjects under major consideration; major theoretical and methodological approaches; trends in the subjects or methods; and relevance for policy and practice. Develop a table or other visual depiction of your findings.

Discuss your findings and interpretations in a paper of at least 1500 words, not including bibliography. Be prepared to discuss the assignment in class.

**Assignment 2**
Review some recent work of a scholar in the hazard or disaster field. Identify the major research themes that the scholar has pursued, noting methods employed and the theoretical contributions and practical implications of the scholar’s findings. Please discuss your choice with me before beginning. Your review should be at least 1500 words, not including bibliography; be prepared to discuss the review in class.

**Assignment 3**
Develop a proposal to be submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF). The proposal should focus on some aspect of disaster response, and should meet all requirements of NSF. Note that NSF mandates a maximum of 15 single-spaced pages. Your proposal should not exceed that, but it should not be less than 5000 words, adhering to all NSF formatting requirements. Be prepared to defend your proposal on the day of class presentations.

OR!

In a paper of not less than 5000 words, examine in more detail one of the challenges that we cover in class. Some possible ideas to guide you are: What does the current literature say, and what are needs for future research? What are conflicts, inconsistencies, or contradictions? What policy adjustments are needed? The paper should be of publishable or near-publishable quality as a paper of original research or a critical literature review, adhering to the citation and bibliographic requirements of a major journal in the field. Be prepared to present your paper in class.
All work will be graded on originality: the degree to which it incorporates and extends information from the readings, from other literature, and from class discussion; and on elements of good composition such as syntax, diction, spelling, and grammar. Should you be in any doubt about your skills in composition, contact the Campus Writing Center for assistance (http://www.cas.udel.edu/writing-center/Pages/default.aspx), and let me know that you are doing so.

20% of the grade for Assignment 3 will be based on the presentation.

Papers should be prepared as follows:

Double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman, Arial, or Helvetica font with one-inch margins, stapled in the upper-left corner of the document header area. Just below that, include your name, assignment due date, and the title of the assignment, such as “Assignment 1, Journal Review.” You are encouraged, of course, to supply an additional title for your paper, to be placed in the center of the first page, with suitable subheadings thereafter.

Use the citation style of a relevant scholarly journal. If in doubt as to scholarly norms of citation, consult an appropriate style manual.

Papers should be submitted in hard copy only. Retain all rough drafts and returned papers at least until final grades are posted. It is advisable to print a draft or two, and to save periodically to a reliable external drive, to minimize the possibility of lost papers due to computer malfunctions. Late papers may be penalized depending on the magnitude of and justification for the lateness. In all cases of absence or emergency, contact the instructor as soon as possible. If in doubt on any matter, contact the instructor in ample time to allow appropriate action to be taken.

September 5
Labor Day!! No Class!!

September 12

Introduction and Scope of Course


September 19
Housing and Recovery


**September 26**

**Emergence and Convergence**


**October 3**

**Emergency Operations Centers**


October 10

October 17
Film: America Rebuilds

October 24
Assignment 1 due
Crisis


October 31

Coordination


November 7


**November 14**

**Hospitals and Long Term Care Facilities**


**November 21**

**Thanksgiving Break! No Class!!**

**November 28**

**Assignment 2 due**

December 5
Film Day!

*Apollo 13*


December 12
Final Examination: Presentation of Final Product
Assignment 3 due

NB: This syllabus is subject to change depending on the emerging needs of the course.

Students are reminded to be aware of School and University policies on academic misconduct.